

WIFE MAY TELL STORY LIKE THAT OF EVELYN THAW

Mrs. Detsch Said to Be Ready
to Go to Defense of Hus-
band if Necessary.

LETTERS FOR THE JURY

If Burglar Plea Fails the Un-
written Law Will Be
Invoked.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—In court here to-day efforts were made to reveal a tale of love and jealousy rivaling that of the Thaw trial. The case of Andrew Jackson Detsch, who stands at the bar of justice to answer for the life of Harry Ferree, whom he shot and killed, is in many ways similar to that which for the second time is now engaging the attention of New York.

The interest of the Philadelphia trial is centered in the twenty-two-year-old wife of the defendant, who, it is expected, will be called to the stand as the star witness for her husband. Her story, which is on the same lines as that of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, is expected to free the man who killed a former friend and neighbor supposed to be a rival for his wife's affections, but whom he declares was slain by him because he thought him a burglar.

While the plea that Detsch thought Ferree was a burglar when he fired is being set up, it is said if this is successfully attacked Mrs. Detsch, who is a beauty, will give the whole startling story of Ferree's stealthy, snake-like approach and his final brief triumph.

Under Hypnotic Spell.

The facts of the case, which is causing a big stir in this town of Brotherly Love, are these: Mr. and Mrs. Detsch, a young married couple and the parents of a baby boy, took as a boarder Harry Ferree, forty-one years old. After cohabiting at midnight the Detsch house, at North Twenty-second street, in the early part of last November, Ferree received five bullets in the abdomen from a revolver in the hands of Detsch. He died instantly.

The husband claimed to have mistaken Ferree for a burglar, and his wife supported him in this theory. Ferree's room was searched, impassioned love letters written by Mrs. Detsch last summer while at Asbury Park, and compromising photographs of the murdered man and the young wife being found. Mrs. Detsch was questioned by the police, who finally wrung from her the story of her infatuation for Ferree and her confession to her husband, which, the prosecution claims, caused the murder.

According to Mrs. Detsch, Harry Ferree held her in a hypnotic spell. She met him six months after her marriage and, yielding to the power he held over her, entered upon clandestine meetings with him.

Harry Ferree then went to board with the young married couple, and the wife lived for a year and a half with her husband while the liaison was in progress.

Detsch, who was absent from home on business at frequent intervals, was entirely unsuspecting of the existing conditions in his home. Ferree, who had been twice married and whose first wife is now living in Brooklyn with her children, was apparently contented to take the chances, and the dangerous situation did not alarm him.

But, according to the police, a rival came to disturb the romance. They say Mrs. Detsch looked with favor upon a rival from Palmyra, N. J., and Ferree in revenge then began to blackmail the young wife. He demanded money from her with threats of disclosing their relations. Mrs. Detsch, after giving him \$50, it is claimed, confessed to her husband the whole intrigue.

Lured There Is the Claim.

The prosecution wants to prove that she lured Ferree to her home on the night of the murder with the promise that her husband would be out of town. When he came, instead of meeting his love, he found death awaiting him.

The prosecution hopes to show that Detsch shot to avenge dishonor, and may force Mrs. Detsch to the stand to try to save her husband.

Setback for Prosecution.

Under a ruling made to-day by Judge Beers, who is presiding at the trial, to the effect that testimony of intimacy between the prisoner's wife and the dead man could not be introduced into the trial unless it could be shown that each knew of such intimacy, brought a temporary closing of the Commonwealth's evidence. Assistant District Attorney Taulane rested before the recess hour, and the defense at once opened. However, the prosecution hopes to get in the evidence on rebuttal.

Although unsuccessful in his efforts to have incriminating letters admitted

Slayer's Wife, Central Figure In Philadelphia's Thaw Case



Josephine Detsch.

at this point in the proceedings, Mr. Taulane, by his arguments and by his offers to show certain material facts, managed to impart to the jury a sufficient amount of information which will show that the true state of affairs led up to the shooting.

Despite the fact that the young prisoner adheres faithfully to the burglar story, evidence was introduced today to show that he did have an inkling of what was going on between his wife and Ferree. Detective Wood, who arrested Detsch, was questioned, and he testified to an interview between the defendant and Captain of Detectives Horgan.

"The captain held in his hand letters found in Ferree's trunk," said Wood. "Detsch was in the room, excited and nervous."

"He was pacing up and down, the captain started to read the letters," Detsch waved his arms frantically. He interrupted the captain, crying, "I wouldn't believe it if my wife told me so herself." He refused to listen to the reading of the letters, so the captain stopped.

Another statement made by the prisoner shortly after the shooting may also show to the jury the weakness of the burglar defense. When asked why he had purchased the revolver, Detsch replied, "I intended going West."

In his testimony Detective Wood stated that he spoke to Detsch about the purchase of the pistol.

"I told me was going West," said the officer, "but later he said he bought the revolver to protect his wife. I asked him what he meant by that and he refused to say another word."

Testimony of this kind will be used by the prosecution in the effort to show the relations between Mrs. Detsch and Ferree.

HUNDREDS AT A DANCE.

Majestic Hall was a scene of gayety last night, when the employees of the Meier & Frank Stores of Greater New York gave their first annual ball. The occasion is made up of several hundred employees.

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The Famous Waltz (consisting of eight music pages) from "The Merry Widow" will be given in the Magazine Section of NEXT SUNDAY'S WORLD, January 24. This music, consisting of 26 staves, is the only authorized copyrighted edition, and is issued as a newspaper supplement exclusively through The World & special arrangement with the music publishers, Chappell & Co., Ltd., London and New York. Any earlier issues of this music by a newspaper are PIRATED and incomplete. Get the REAL music of the Merry Widow Waltz in The World next Sunday.

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